

By: Rodriguez

S.B. No. 613

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to educational requirements for licensing as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist and to reciprocity for audiologists licensed in other states.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 401.304(a), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible for licensing as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist, an applicant must:

(1) if the application is for a license in:

(A) speech-language pathology, possess at least a master's degree with a major in at least one of the areas of communicative sciences or disorders from a program accredited by a national accrediting organization approved by the board [the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association] in an accredited or approved college or university; or

(B) audiology, possess at least a doctoral degree in audiology from a program accredited by a national accrediting organization approved by the board in an accredited or approved college or university;

(2) submit a transcript from a public or private institution of higher learning showing successful completion of course work in amounts set by the board in:

(A) normal development and use of speech,

1 language, and hearing;

2 (B) evaluation, habilitation, and rehabilitation
3 of speech, language, and hearing disorders; and

4 (C) related fields that augment the work of
5 clinical practitioners of speech-language pathology and audiology;

6 (3) have successfully completed at least 36 semester
7 hours in courses that are acceptable toward a graduate degree by the
8 college or university in which the courses are taken, at least 24 of
9 which must be in the professional area for which the license is
10 requested and at least six of which must be:

11 (A) in audiology if the application is for a
12 speech-language pathology license; or

13 (B) in speech-language pathology if the
14 application is for an audiology license;

15 (4) have completed the minimum number of hours,
16 established by the board, of supervised clinical experience with
17 persons who present a variety of communication disorders; and

18 (5) have completed the full-time supervised
19 professional experience, as defined by board rule, in which
20 clinical work has been accomplished in the major professional area
21 for which the license is being sought.

22 SECTION 2. Subchapter G, Chapter 401, Occupations Code, is
23 amended by adding Section 401.3081 to read as follows:

24 Sec. 401.3081. AUDIOLOGIST LICENSED IN ANOTHER
25 JURISDICTION. (a) The board may waive any prerequisite to
26 obtaining a license for an applicant for licensing as an
27 audiologist after reviewing the applicant's credentials and

1 determining that the applicant holds a license issued by another
2 jurisdiction that has licensing requirements substantially
3 equivalent to those of this state.

4 (b) The board may waive any prerequisite to obtaining a
5 license for an applicant for licensing as an audiologist who holds a
6 license issued by another jurisdiction with which this state has a
7 reciprocity agreement. The board may make an agreement, subject to
8 the approval of the governor, with another state to allow for
9 licensing by reciprocity.

10 SECTION 3. Section 401.304, Occupations Code, as amended by
11 this Act, applies only to a person who applies for a speech-language
12 pathologist or audiologist license on or after the effective date
13 of this Act. A person who applies for a license before that date is
14 governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective date
15 of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that
16 purpose.

17 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.